

Date

Chairman John Green  
Northeast Bossier Fire District #5  
P.O. Box 810  
Plain Dealing, LA 71064

**Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2015-1252**

Dear Mr. Green:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its January 15, 2016 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether Danielle Ogea Vaughan may continue her employment with Northeast Bossier Fire District #5 ("District") if her husband becomes Fire Chief for the District. You stated that Mrs. Vaughn became employed with the District as a secretary in 2010, and is currently employed as the Secretary/Treasurer for the Board of Commissioners. You also stated that Mrs. Vaughn is married to Jason Vaughan, the current Assistant Fire Chief. Finally, you stated that Jason Vaughan was recently nominated to fill the vacant Fire Chief's position. You provided further information that as part of Mrs. Vaughn's job duties, she works with the Fire Chief to complete reports that are submitted to the State Fire Marshal's Office.

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you that, the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Danielle Ogea Vaughan from continuing her employment with the District after her husband becomes the Fire Chief for the District. La. R.S. 42:1119A prohibits an immediate family member of an agency head from being employed in his agency. However, La. R.S. 42:1119C(2) allows a public servant who has been employed with an agency for at least one year prior to his immediate family member becoming an agency head to maintain his employment and to receive normal promotional advancements. Because Mrs. Vaughan was employed for at least one year by the District prior to her husband becoming Fire Chief, she would not be prohibited from continuing her employment with the District.

The Board has also instructed me to inform you that La. R.S. 42:1112B(1) prohibits a public servant from participating in a transaction involving the governmental entity in which any member of his immediate family has a substantial economic interest. As such, La. R.S. 42:1112C would require Jason Vaughan to disqualify himself from participating in matters involving his wife's employment if he becomes Fire Chief for the District. A disqualification plan must be confected in accordance with La. R.S. 42:1112C and Chapter 14 of the Administrative Rules for the Board of Ethics. The disqualification plan, which must be approved by the Board of Ethics, should completely remove Jason Vaughan from any responsibility regarding his wife's employment with the District. A copy of Chapter 14 of the Administrative Rules for the Board of Ethics is enclosed.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

**LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**

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Jennifer T. Land  
For the Board

Enclosure

DRAFT  
THIS IS NOT AN OPINION OF THE  
BOARD OF ETHICS